

Enrico Caruso Fast Regaining Health; Says He Hopes to Live to a Hundred

Tenor Enlivens Life of Sorrento—Says He Is Getting Back 'Pep.'

Special Correspondence to This New York Herald.

SORRENTO, July 30.—The millions of admirers of Enrico Caruso, tenor of the Metropolitan Opera, New York, who have been watching his convalescence with anxiety, can find a deal of comforting assurance in the announcement that he celebrated the Fourth of July by giving an informal dinner party in his hotel apartment here. The guest of honor was the friend and compatriot of Mrs. Caruso—the Baroness Romano di Avessano, wife of the former Italian Ambassador to Washington.

When Caruso can give dinner parties and sit up until midnight entertaining his guests in his wonted cheery, chatty way, it is a safe bet that his road to complete recovery must look pretty clear. No physician's bulletin could be more convincing.

Since his arrival in this fascinating place that from time immemorial has been the favorite resort of lovers of beauty and seekers after health, when crowned heads and heads that expected to be crowned at times have been so numerous that the townsfolk paid no more attention to them than if they were ordinary "trippers"—the King of Terrors, whose life a few months ago was almost in the clutch of the King of Terrors, has been improving steadily day by day.

"Only the day before I arrived here," said he to a friend, "there were fireworks and a band concert in honor of an old woman who has reached her centennial. There must be something especially life-giving in Sorrento air if people live to be a hundred so easily. That's why I am here. I hope my sons and daughters will give me a band parade and fireworks when I touch the hundred mark."

Objects of Sympathetic Interest.

Mr. Caruso, Mrs. Caruso and little Gloria are now objects of sympathetic interest to all the inhabitants of this old town of the Siren. After a day or two, Caruso tested his legs by undertaking a stroll to Tasso square, the civic center named after the town's most famous son. It is a question which excited the greater interest of the natives—the famous artist who had come back from the banks of the dark river or the splendid Junoesque figure of his young transatlantic wife. At the little club to which all the prominent men of the community belong, it was unanimously decided that Mrs. Dorothy Benjamin Caruso is the handsomest American woman that has ever put foot on the Sorrentine peninsula.

"If I believed in reincarnations," said one of the club members, "I would say



Enrico Caruso gazing across bay at his native city of Naples from belvedere of his hotel in Sorrento.

that at least the Siren has returned to her native habitat. And it is no secret that Caruso is not a bit displeased that attention should be detracted from himself in favor of his fair companion. As it is her first visit to Sorrento, her interest in the life of the town and its people provides him with no little entertainment. Each day in the forenoon they extend their strolls so that now Caruso, without fatiguing himself, can walk around town for an hour or two, stopping at this, that or the other little shop, prying a bit of

coral or tortoiseshell or inlaid box work or a sample of silk—all specialties of the district—cracking jokes in the local dialect (which virtually is Neapolitan) or bargaining for better prices. Needless to say, every little shopkeeper is on the lookout for him in the morning, hoping it will be his or her turn for a call and a sale. But they have discovered that they cannot fool him. "How much for this yachting cap?" said Caruso the other day to a hat dealer. "One hundred lire," Mr. Caruso. "One hundred lire," was the reply.

"Why, I'm neither an Englishman nor an American. Have you forgotten I'm a Neapolitan? Have you twenty lire?" "Oh, Mr. Caruso, surely you don't mean it?" "Don't!" responds the great tenor with a twinkling eye. "Well, either you take the twenty lire or you keep the cap. Which do you want to do?" Well, Mr. Caruso carried off the yachting cap under his arm!

However, all who know him realize at once that it is no spirit of meanness that prompted such an action. Perhaps he sent the hat dealer the other eighty lire the next day.

While occasionally, as on the Fourth of July, Caruso may sit up late at night, his habit here is to retire between nine and ten. He sleeps like a child and has a splendid appetite. His nerves are getting into excellent shape, as is evidenced by his general good spirits. Sometimes on Sundays his brother Giovanni and his family come over from Naples to spend the day, bringing with them their seventy-one-year-old stepmother, who married Caruso's father when he was fifteen years old. The stepmother doesn't look her age. She is an old lady of fine dignity, and it is plain that her stepson does not let her want for anything that would bring comfort and happiness. Her admiration of and affection for Enrico are not disguised.

Waiting to Recover "Pep."

When Mr. Caruso was questioned as to his plans he said he expects to remain in Sorrento as long as possible. "It is doing me lots of good—the air and sunshine, this odor of fruit and flowers, with all this beauty to charm the eyes—sea, mountains, skies. Where is there a lovelier spot for a man to recuperate his powers?" "And the voice?" it was deferentially suggested.

"Oh, I haven't tried myself out yet," Caruso replied frankly. "There is nothing the matter with the vocal apparatus, but I prefer to wait until I feel I have recovered something like my former physical 'pep' before judging for myself—for you know I am my own severest critic, no matter what the newspaper critics may say or think."

After leaving Sorrento it is Caruso's plan to go in August to his Villa Bolloguardo, charmingly situated on a lofty eminence overlooking the village of Signa, about twelve miles north of Florence.

"Then," said he, laughing, "I hope to do a little agricultural work with a

shovel and get a good example to my tenants—for whom, by the way, I seem to be keeping the place going." Meanwhile the fact must be recorded that sharing the honors of the Piazza Tasso and Corso Duomo, in Sorrento, is Miss Gloria Caruso, who, as she rides to and fro in her nurse propelled smart American perambulator, impresses the little Sorrentine children with her importance quite as much as ever did any visiting princess in the bygone days before Garibaldi chased the Bourbons from the throne of Naples.

Near East Benefit in Open Air Playhouse

The beautiful Rosemary Theatre, the private open air playhouse on the Roland Conklin estate near Huntington, L. I., is to be the scene of two performances on the nights of August 12 and 13 by a group of well known theatrical stars, with John Drew at their head, for the benefit of the Near East Relief Committee.

The programme is to include several features differentiating it from similar performances. The actors and actresses who have promised to appear include William Faversham, Miss Grace George, Montague Love, Miss Carroll McComas, Lionel Atwell, Miss Elsie Mackay, Miss Doris Keane, Basil Sydney, Miss Patricia Collinge and Miss Olive Wyndham. Miss McComas will open the performance by reciting a new Cosmo Hamilton prologue. A group of dancers, under the direction of Kosioff, will appear in a dance prepared for the occasion.

There are larger open air theatres in the country than the Rosemary, which has a seating capacity of 4,000, but none is more charming. Situated on a hillside, the theatre commands a view of the junction of Cold Spring Harbor and Long Island Sound. The auditorium is a succession of sodded terraces, each having room for several rows of chairs. The semicircular, grass grown stage is separated from the audience by a lagoon, fed from artesian wells.

In October, 1917, Roland Conklin and the late Mrs. Conklin, who planned and constructed the theatre, dedicated it to public service with the first performance for the Mounting hospital.

News of Activities Among the Picture Plays and Players

Star Cast Is Being Assembled for Feature Production of 'The Rosary.'

Col. William N. Selig and Sam E. Rork have assembled an all star cast for their six reel feature production of "The Rosary," which started this week at the Selig studio. It includes Lewis Stone, Jane Novak, Wallace Beery, Robert Gordon, Eugene Bessner, Doris Davidson and Pomeroy Cannon.

Byrd Hazleton will make her screen debut in a William Fox special now being directed by Harry Millarde. Miss Hazleton is the daughter of the late George Hazleton, who wrote "Mistress Nell" for Henrietta Crossman, and "The Yellow Jacket." She is a graduate of the Sargent School of Dramatic Expression.

Alice Lake's closest friend at Hollywood, Cal., is a "golf widow." The friend complains that golf is a disease. "The hoof and mouth disease," she calls it, explaining, "it's hoof all day and then come home and mouth."

A movement under way to establish in southern California a permanent motion picture exposition. At yearly intervals the various aspects of film making will be on view.

Disaster cut short Lyod Ingraham's anticipated vacation at the California ranch of David Kirkland, his friend and directorial colleague. Hardly had he arrived when the ranch house took fire and burned to the ground. On his return to Hollywood with the news Mr. Kirkland accompanied him on a deep sea fishing trip.

Houdini will put into production this week his second picture for his own producing organization, Houdini Picture Corporation. It will be made from another original story by the star himself. The working title is "Haldane of

the Secret Service." Houdini's first picture has just been completed after being seventeen weeks in the making. In all Houdini will make four a year, each one a special feature.

Promoters of a rodeo in Buenos Aires, Argentina, desire to get William E. Hart to make a personal appearance. It is not expected, however, that he will accept, as he has presumably retired from theatricals.

Mildred Davis is a pupil in a Los Angeles art school. She has agreed to write and illustrate a series of newspaper articles and "brushing up" her sketching. Off stage Miss Davis is a clever pen-and-ink artist.

Monte Blue is here from California to play the leading male role in "Peacock Alley," Mae Murray's first independent production. He received a personal appeal from Miss Murray one day at noon. The same afternoon at 5 o'clock he boarded a train for New York.

Norka Rouskaya, whose dances at the Hippodrome, illustrative of the mood depicted in the photoplay "The Twice Born Woman," attracted attention, is expected in Spain with the beginning of the new season for a tour of that country and Europe.

Clyde Cook, the eccentric William Fox comedy star, has begun work at Hollywood on a picture called "The Toreador." It is said to be even funnier than "The Guide" or "The Jockey," which placed Cook in the front ranks of screen comedians.

A girl applicant for a position in motion pictures was in to see William Carruthers, casting director for Metro. "Don't you think I grow well?" she giggled.

"Yes, but what are you dressed for?" Mr. Carruthers gasped as he looked over her costume, "The High Jump?"

National Exchanges, Inc., announces for September release, a five reel picture, "Shadows of the West," featuring Hedda Nova and presented by the Motion Picture Producing Company of America. The late Lieut. Pat O'Brien plays the masculine lead in it.

Betsy Ross Clarke is a bride of a month, having married Lieut. Arthur Collins, a former member of the Royal Flying Corps, and now connected with the Continental Bank of Los Angeles.

Miss Clarke is leading woman for Harry Carey's Universal-Jewel feature "The Fox."

Rex Ingram, director of "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" and "The Conquering Power," who returned to the Metro studios in Hollywood this week from the East, will begin immediately plans for the motion picture production of "Turn to the Right," the stage success by Wenchell Smith and Jack Maczard, the most costly story ever bought for the screen. Metro purchased from John Golden, producer of the spoken play, a one-half interest in "Turn to the Right" for \$250,000.

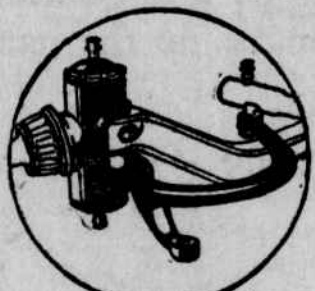
Rupert Hughes went to the Goldwyn Studios to write photoplays and help produce them. That isn't all he has done, by any means. Word comes now that he has just written another novel, this one based upon a close study of the motion picture folk with whom he has been associated during the past eight months. The new novel will be published in the Red Book Magazine, starting with the September issue.

Both Brown, New York literary woman, has joined the C. L. Chester Productions in Hollywood as editor and titler, and has begun work on "The Land of Bohemia," a short subject dealing with Greenwich Village, in which her studio was, for many years, a rendezvous of writers and artists.

With the completion of the cast for "Flower of the North," Vitaphone has begun the production of this special based on the novel of the same name by James Oliver Curwood. Henry B. Walthall, who played the leading role in "The Birth of a Nation" and other big productions, will have the leading male role of Philip, and Pauline Black, who portrayed the title role in "The Courage of Marge O'Doone," another of the Curwood stories visualized by Vitaphone, will appear opposite Mr. Walthall, as Jeanne.

Instructed to be in London Aug. 1 ready to play the leading role in Jean Robertson's next Paramount picture, "Perpetua," from Dion Clayton Colthorpe's book, Ann Forrest left Los Angeles Monday on the first leg of a race against time, which will carry her half way around the world. Miss Forrest will arrive in New York Friday.

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